

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ADP-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 RSR-01 RSC-01

(ADP) W

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R 141101Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2583

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 8459

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CODEL WOLFF

REF: MANILA 9209

1. IN A QUICK VISIT TO PHNOM PENH THIS MORNING, CONGRESSMAN WOLFF TALKED WITH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LONG BORET, MINISTER OF DEFENSE U SAY AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION SUM CHUM TOGETHER ON THE CAMBODIAN SITUATION FOR OVER AN HOUR AND THEN HAD A 20 MINUTE SESSION WITH THE PRESS. TO BOTH GROUPS HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE CESSATION OF THE U.S. BOMBING WOULD LEAD THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TO RECIPROCATE BY WITHDRAWING THEIR TROOPS FROM CAMBODIA.

2. IN RESPONSE TO CONGRESSMAN WOLFF'S QUERY AS TO WHETHER THE CURRENT CONFLICT IN CAMBODIA WERE NOT A CIVIL WAR, LONG BORET AND U SAY OUTLINED IN DETAIL THE HISTORY OF NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG INVOLVEMENT IN CAMBODIA. ASKED WHETHER THE 1970 U.S. ARMED INCURSIONS INTO CAMBODIA WERE AT THE INITIAL REQUEST OF THE U.S. OR THE GKR, LONG BORET CALLED ATTENTION TO THE GKR'S INTERNATIONAL APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE TO WHICH ONLY THE US REPLIED. CONGRESSMAN WOLFF ASKED FOR A COPY OF THIS APPEAL. LONG BORET CONCLUDED WITH A REQUEST FOR
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HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.

3. TO THE PRESS CONGRESSMAN WOLFF SAID CONGRESS REGARDED THE BOMBING HALT AS A FIRST STEP TO BE TAKEN AND THAT THE NEXT STEP IS FOR HANOI TO REMOVE ITS TROOPS FROM THE COUNTRY. "WE DO NOT WISH TO BE IN A CIVIL WAR," HE ADDED, "BUT, IF IT IS A CIVIL WAR, ALL FORCES SHOULD BE OUT OF HERE." ASKED LATER WHAT CONGRESS WOULD DO IF THE NVA DOES NOT WITHDRAW, CONGRESSMAN WOLFF WOULD NOT COMMENT ON CONGRESS' REACTION BUT SAID THIS WOULD SIGNIFY A LACK OF FAITH WHICH WOULD INFLUENCE HIS FUTURE DECISIONS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY, THE CONGRESSMAN SAID HE WAS AMAZED BY THE CONFIDENCE EVIDENCED HERE, CONTRARY TO OUTSIDE REPORTS OF THE EFFECT ON MORALE OF THE U.S. BOMBING HALT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED OF DEPARTMENT: PLEASE FURNISH CONGRESSMAN WOLFF'S OFFICE WITH THE TEXT OF THE GKR'S 1970 APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE WHICH PRECLUDED THE ALLIED INCURSIONS INTO CAMBODIA AND WAS MADE TO ALL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE MAJOR POWERS.
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